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# *CIA purge stirs talk of 'plots' by Ford*

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WASHINGTON — The change in the CIA leadership has led invariably to suspicions of a plot — in fact, several plots.

The intelligence community suspects President Ford may be "politicizing" an agency that prides itself on its elite professionalism, as CIA types put it, by replacing director William E. Colby with George Bush, a former GOP national chairman.

Chairman Frank Church (D-Ide.), of the Senate intelligence committee, who shares the suspicion, also suspects that Ford's appointment of a new director as the committee enters its final stages was an attempt to disrupt the investigation.

Church lumped Ford's choice of Bush with a White House effort to suppress publication of a committee report on assassinations into what he called "a pattern of obstruction."

Church said at a news conference Tuesday that he would not vote to confirm Bush because of his political background.

THE WHITE HOUSE immediately dismissed the charge that the President was either injecting politics into the CIA with the Bush appointment or attempting to impede the congressional investigations.

"Bush has been a congressman, an ambassador to the United Nations, and a representative to the Peoples Republic of China," presidential press secretary Ronald Nessen said. "He is obviously ex-

perienced in diplomacy and national security affairs."

Nessen added that Ford has been shown a calendar of the Church committee's hearings and fully intends to continue to co-operate with the investigation.

Church called Bush "a nice guy," but questioned his qualifications to head the embattled CIA. The senator noted that Presidents "used to appoint former chairmen of political parties to head the Post Office, because it was the least sensitive and most political department. Now this President names a former chairman to head the CIA, the most sensitive and least political agency."

A FORMER CIA official said it would take Bush at least a year to "get on top of the agency if he's a quick learner."

Church, who has regarded Colby as co-operative and eager to cleanse the CIA of past sins, said his ouster "represents an impediment, an obstruction, a difficulty."

Inasmuch as Bush would not be aware of past CIA activities, Church said, the committee would have to work with CIA deputy director Vernon (Dick) Walters in completing its investigation.

Ford met with Colby for 15 minutes Wednesday and asked him to remain on as CIA director "until a successor is confirmed and qualified."

White House press secretary Ron Nessen said Colby agreed.

IN HIS NEWS conference, Church dismissed a demand by Sen. Barry Goldwater (R-Ariz.), a member of the select

committee, for an immediate halt to both the Senate and House investigations, declaring that no new material was being turned up and charging that the inquiries have become "counter-productive."

Nessen, at his regular press briefing, accused Church of appearing "to be more interested in making headlines than conducting an investigation" of the CIA.

"The President believes that (Bush) will do an outstanding job at CIA," Nessen added.